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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/571,409	12/15/2006	Jorg Adomeit	02316.2353USWO	3448
23552 7590 08/21/2007 MERCHANT & GOULD PC P.O. BOX 2903 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903			EXAMINER BLEVINS, JERRY M	
			ART UNIT 2883	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 08/21/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/571,409

Applicant(s)

ADOMEIT ET AL.

Examiner

Jerry Martin Blevins

Art Unit

2883

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 March 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 8-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5-7 and 13 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 March 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/9/2006, 9/1/2006.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4 and 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US 6,206,580 to Nagaoka et al.

Regarding claim 1, Nagaoka teaches a housing Figure 1() for fiber optic plug connectors (2), comprising: a housing body (21) with the housing body having at least two housing parts (22 and 23), in which one end of a conductor cable (5) can be positioned and the position of the conductor cable in the housing can be secured (with retaining piece 46), the conductor cable defining a longitudinal axis, wherein at least one of the housing parts has an opening (33), and the at least one housing part can be latched over a the conductor cable through the opening in the a transverse direction to the longitudinal axis (with engagement piece 30).

Regarding claim 9, Nagaoka teaches a method for laying fiber optic cables (Figure 1), in which at least one end of a conductor cable (5) is laid to a plug in location (2), comprising: positioning the end of the conductor cable in a first housing part (23) of a housing (21), and securing the position of the conductor cable in the first housing part (with retaining piece 46) by a second housing part (22) of the housing, wherein at least one of the first and second housing parts, which has an opening (33), is latched (with engagement piece 30) over the conductor cable in the transverse direction to a longitudinal axis defined by the conductor cable.

Regarding claims 2 and 10, Nagaoka teaches that the conductor cable can be accommodated in the housing, with the end of the conductor cable being prefabricated at least with a ferrule (6).

Regarding claims 3 and 11, Nagaoka teaches a compression spring (9) can be pre-stressed by the housing, in which case the compression spring is mounted in advance on the end of the conductor cable and the position of the ferrule and of the conductor cable in the housing can be secured by the compression spring (column 6, line 46 – column 7, line 9).

Regarding claims 4 and 12, Nagaoka teaches that the housing parts can be connected via a latching connection (column 5, lines 46-55 and column 6, line 62 – column 7, line 9).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagaoka in view of US 6,151,432 to Nakajima et al.

Regarding claim 8, Nagaoka teaches the limitations of the base claim 1. Nagaoka does not teach that the housing is an FC, MTRJ, SC, Duplex-SC, LC, E2000, ST, or DIN plug. Nakajima teaches a housing for fiber optic plug connectors wherein the housing is an FC, MTRJ, SC, Duplex-SC, LC, E2000, ST, or DIN plug (FC plug housing 30, SC plug housing 40 and ST plug housing 50). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the housing of Nagaoka such that it is an FC, MTRJ, SC, Duplex-SC, LC, E2000, ST, or DIN plug, as taught by Nakajima. The motivation would have been to increase the compatibility with the connected plug,

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 5-7 and 13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Regarding claims 5 and 13, Nagaoka teaches the imitations of the base claims 1 and 9, respectively. However, Nagaoka, alone or in combination with the prior art, does not disclose or render obvious that the housing parts include a closure cap connected to a plug housing, the closure cap formed with an opening for latching onto the conductor cable, the opening in the form of a slot.

Claims 6 and 7 contain allowable subject matter due to their dependence from claim 5.

**Conclusion**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jerry Martin Blevins whose telephone number is 571-272-8581. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Frank G. Font can be reached on 571-272-2415. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JMB



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